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Please note: Tobogganing at Winchester Golf Club is, in fact, trespassing on private property.

IN THIS BTC:

Less than Half the Picture	page 2	Yes Woman: Lotus Interiors.....	page 5
Final R.I.D.E. results.....	page 2	Plant-based eating.....	page 6
Xmas tree pick-up	page 2	Who runs trivia night?	page 6
Girl guides collecting	page 3	Brooklin Baffler.....	page 7
Our Brooklin Kids.....	page 4	Open Data is here.....	page 8



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Less than Half the Picture *By Richard Bercuson*

2017 News Briefs I'd Like to See



The Rolling Stones, the world's youngest geriatric rock group, will give an impromptu concert sometime this summer during Brooklin's Summer in the Park series. A spokesperson for the group says they occasionally drop in at some Toronto clubs to jam. However, they're looking for a more placid outdoor location and Brooklin was suggested. No date has yet been set.

Word has leaked that Apple Canada is planning to open a "pop-up" store in downtown Brooklin by August, in time for back-to-school specials and the likely release of a new iPhone. Though Apple has not confirmed this, it's believed the pop-up is a test run for a more permanent retail outlet, the only one east of Markville Mall, which one can't get to in any normal timeframe.

McDonald's is indeed planning a restaurant within walking distance of Brooklin High School. However, to allay fears of junk food spending and senseless loitering, McDonald's says it will offer only salads and "nutritious" wraps during the high school lunch hours. Breakfast sandwiches will only be sold between 7 and 7:30 am when no self-respecting adolescent is yet conscious. To deal with loitering, every half hour, the restaurant will play medleys of The Kingston Trio's best known numbers along with some Baroque hits.

The Luther Vipond Arena sports complex will be announced. The final project will include a major

renovation to the arena itself, with it and adjacent lands placed inside a retractable "bubbledome." Designed by the same engineering firm that built Montreal's Olympic Stadium, the new Vipond Bubbledome will include, aside from the arena, an indoor baseball diamond, multi-purpose artificial turf fields, and a playground with instructions on how to use the equipment. For sports events, spectators will sit or stand behind soundproof one way glass partitions. There will also be free wifi and plugins.

Road pylons once used by Ontario's Ministry of Transportation on the Baldwin/407 overpass will be donated to Brooklin to use as decorative planters in the downtown area. The MTO will also send a letter of apology to each Brooklin resident along with a \$2 credit for the new stretch of highway (maximum of \$4 per family).

Whitby Council votes at meetings in chambers will be done on the internet right where councillors sit. No more raising of hands (ie. yea vs. nay) once research became available indicating how people can be swayed by what's called "the twitch vote." According to researchers in Brisbane, when a hand vote is called, such as in meetings, those unsure of their votes will surreptitiously watch others first to see if their arms twitch before going up. Votes are then frequently changed at the last moment. Under the new system, councillors will use a special internal app. The app's creator has no known connection to any foreign government.

Final Results of 2016 Festive R.I.D.E.

After seven weeks, the Festive R.I.D.E. team charged a total of 99 motorists for drinking and driving offences. Last year, 118 had been charged. Another 105 motorists registered a WARN on a roadside screening device and had their driver's licence suspended for 3 days. Last year, a total of 129 drivers had their licence suspended for registering a WARN.

Durham Regional police officers conducted R.I.D.E. checks in Ajax, Pickering, Uxbridge, Port Perry, Whitby, Oshawa, and Clarington in Week 7 and six people were charged with drinking and driving offences. The final numbers from the 2016 Festive R.I.D.E. campaign are as follows (the numbers in brackets reflect the 2015 Festive R.I.D.E. totals, for comparison):

13,397 (10,017)
Vehicles stopped by R.I.D.E.

695 (802)
People given Roadside Breath Tests

105 (129)
People received "3 Day Suspensions" for registering a "WARN"

9 (17)
Novice Driver received a 24hr Licence Suspension

"Plan Ahead, Don't Take a Chance, Don't Drink and Drive"



99 (118)
People were charged with Drinking and Driving Offences

133 (162)
Criminal Code Charges

25 (42)
G1 G2 / Young Driver Licence Holder Breaches of No Alcohol Condition

251 (296)
Charged with various Highway Traffic Act offences

10 (9)
Drug Offences

13 (21)
Criminal Code Charges (not related to drinking and driving)

A complete list of those charged with Impaired/Exceed/Refuse is posted at www.drps.ca under Hot Topics. Note: Under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, anyone charged with a drinking and driving criminal offence will have his or her driver's licence suspended for 90 days and their vehicle automatically impounded for seven days.

Durham Regional Police will continue R.I.D.E. spot checks throughout the year and remind motorists that drinking and driving will not be tolerated on our streets.

This just in...
Tolls for the new Highway 407/412 extensions will come into effect on Feb. 1, 2017.



"Proud to be a Brooklinite"
Founded in 2000

and published 24 times per year.

Editor, Richard Bercuson

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All editorial submissions are subject to editing.

For advertising information, contact:
Marissa Campbell at 905-243-3655
Email: yeswomanbrooklin@gmail.com

Next Issue: Friday, January 20, 2017
Deadline: Friday, January 13, 2017

Annual collection of natural Christmas trees

Durham residents are reminded that natural Christmas tree collection will be offered after the holiday season.

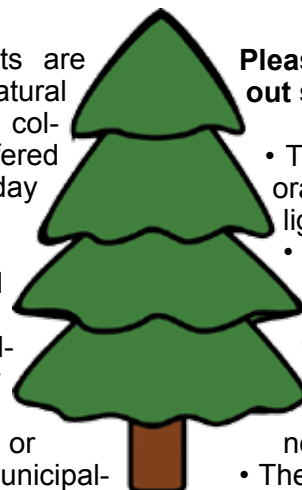
Residents should refer to their municipal waste collection calendar for scheduled collection dates, or call their local municipality. Unfavorable weather conditions may delay collection. Please leave trees out for collection on your scheduled date. Residents are encouraged to sign up for collection alerts on the Durham Region Waste App.

Natural Christmas trees are shredded into wood chips and turned into mulch. Natural trees are grown as crops, eventually composting back into environment—unlike artificial trees, which end up discarded in the waste stream. Last year, approximately 376 tonnes of natural Christmas trees were collected.

Please note the following set-out specifications:

- Trees must have tinsel, decorations, wire, plastic bags, lights and stands removed.
- Trees must be set out by 7 a.m. on your collection day, but no earlier than 7 p.m. the evening before your collection day.
- Trees in plastic bags will not be collected.
- There is no limit to the number of trees collected per household.
- Trees exceeding three metres (10 feet) must be cut in half for collection.
- Please ensure trees are not buried in snow or frozen to the ground.

Residents who miss their collection date may also drop off trees at any of Durham's Waste Management Facilities during regular hours of operation (disposal fees will apply). For more information, visit www.durham.ca/wmf, email waste@durham.ca, call 1-800-667-5671 or download the Durham Region Waste App.



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The 2nd Brooklin girl guides have once again been collecting needed items to fill backpacks for youth in the region. They have created six backpacks for youth in Durham region and two bedrolls for Sleeping Children Around The World.




DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Whitby
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Kindergarten, Early Years, Child Care & After School Recreation
PROGRAMS

Great Beginnings Start at the Durham District School Board



KINDERGARTEN

is a child-centred, inquiry play-based educational program that provides children with a stronger start in school and in life. Kindergarten average class size is two educators for 26 students.

Pre-Registration for Kindergarten
January 17, 2017

Telephone pre-registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.

We invite parents/guardians to register at their DDSB home school.

Bellwood PS	905-436-0098	John Dryden PS	905-434-7400
Blair Ridge PS	905-620-1221	Julie Payette PS*	905-668-2225
Brooklin Village PS	905-655-8959	Meadowcrest PS*	905-655-3731
Capt. Michael VandenBos PS	905-665-2001	Ormiston PS	905-430-8755
C.E. Broughton PS	905-665-8229	Pringle Creek PS	905-430-2488
Chris Hadfield PS	905-620-1282	Robert Munsch PS	905-620-1255
Colonel J.E. Farewell PS	905-666-3901	Sir Samuel Steele PS	905-723-2944
Dr. R. Thornton PS	905-723-9912	Sir William Stephenson PS	905-668-8601
E.A. Fairman PS	905-668-2251	West Lynde PS	905-668-3354
Fallingbrook PS	905-668-5211	Whitby Shores PS	905-666-6667
Glen Dhu PS	905-668-8779	Williamsburg PS	905-668-6613
Jack Miner PS	905-668-3249	Winchester PS	905-655-7328

* Single-track French Immersion school

Junior Kindergarten

To be eligible for Junior Kindergarten, children must be four years old by December 31, 2017.

Senior Kindergarten

To be eligible for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five years old by December 31, 2017.

For more information regarding your child's home school designation, please contact our Property and Planning Department at: planning.department@ddsb.ca or by phone 905-666-6421 or 1-800-339-6913 ext: 6421.

If the number of children pre-registered for either program exceeds the accepted class limit, some students may be transported to another school.


www.ddsb.ca

Early Years

- Full Day Child Care Centres
infant to 4 years
- Preschool Programs
ages 2 to 4 years
- Before and After School Programs
ages 6 to 12 years
- Parent and Family Literacy Centres
infant to 6 years
- After School Recreation Programs
ages 6 to 12 years
- Early Years and Child Care Summer Programs
infant to 12 years

For more detailed information on Early Years, Child Care and After School Programs, please visit: www.ddsb.ca/programs/earlyyears


Happy New Year!



If you or a loved one had difficulty hearing over the holidays, celebrate 2017 with a New Year's resolution to improve your hearing! To help you get started, we're offering these **SPECIAL JANUARY COUPON SAVINGS** – Combine and redeem them at any of one of our 100 locations in Ontario!


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- Whitby | 604 Garden Street | Call Paula at 1-866-800-8971



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Our Brooklin Kids By Leanne Brown

Should you pay your child to do chores?



My daughter has been getting an allowance for a few years now. Each week she gets a small sum to do with as she pleases. Some of her little friends also get an allowance based on the completion of required chores. But my daughter's doesn't come with such conditions. Should she be expected to complete chores for it?

Paying kids for chores is a hotly debated topic. Many parents feel that tying allowances to chores is similar to paying kids to do their jobs (everyday household chores) just as their parents get paid at work. If they don't do their jobs, the children don't get paid. The idea is this teaches them that a good work ethic is rewarded. They see this as preparing them for the real world.

But if you think about it, is it really doing that? My husband and I do a lot of work around the house yet we don't get paid for household chores. Why should our child? Families are busier than ever these days with ev-

everyone heading to activities. Keeping a household up and running requires everyone to do their part.

By tying a child's allowance to these chores you could be heading down a challenging road. Imagine if it's your son's chore to feed the cat. He decides he doesn't feel like doing it today and figures it's okay, that it will just come out of his allowance. Someone, likely Mom or Dad, will feed the starving animal at some point. So, he "gets away with it."

By paying children for chores, you could be sending the message that work isn't worth doing unless they're getting paid for it.

For example, "Honey, can you help me with the laundry?" "Sure, Mom, how much will you pay me?"

As children get older, they can do more chores, but for every new duty you introduce, you might find yourself having to negotiate a price. And what if someone offers to pay them more? Does that mean your daugh-

ter can stop mowing the lawn at home if the neighbor will pay double?

Instead, offer a list of paid odd jobs choose from outside their normal chores, such as helping clean out the garage. This gives kids a chance to earn a little more money aside from their regular allowance. This is especially good for kids who are saving up for something special as it gives them the control to reach their goals faster.

Am I worried that my daughter won't learn the value of money by just giving it to her? Not at all. She has set chores and is expected to do her part. But I see allowance as a tool for her to learn money management rather than a reward for work done. I give no guidance on how she uses the money, unless she asks. Over the past three years, she has blown the funds on junk, saved for something special, put it in the bank, given it away and lost it.

Having a small amount to make

mistakes with teaches big lessons with little risk. And each time your child makes a money decision, she learns from it. These are lessons that are easier learned now than when she has a larger sum to play with.



A Brooklin Toddler's Random Thoughts

"Why?...Why?...Why?...Why?..."

Community Calendar

If you have a community not-for-profit event you would like included in the calendar, please email it to editorofBTC@gmail.com with the subject line "calendar." Priority will be given to Brooklin events. Some editing may occur.

Fri., Jan. 27, 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Winter, Wine and Wellness - 8 Vipond Road, Brooklin
The Optimist Club of Brooklin's Winter, Wine and Wellness event will consist of two sessions (6:30 pm - 8 pm and 8:30 pm - 10 pm) where you are invited to enjoy a fun evening and learn about some incredible local community partners who operate health and wellness-based businesses. Tickets will include admission, snacks and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic). This event is for community members 19+. There will be samples, demonstrations, giveaways, and a fundraising raffle where you can purchase tickets to win some amazing prizes. Early Bird tickets are \$15 each (plus fees) if purchased BEFORE January 15. Then they will increase to \$20. Many local businesses will be in attendance to show how they help their clients to beat the winter blues. This event is all about wellness. We hope you come to have a bit of fun and learn a little something, too. Please stay

tuned to this page web site page below to get updates about our amazing community partner businesses will be attending.
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/winter-wine-wellness-tickets-30214161370>

Sun., Jan. 29, 7:00 pm
Brooklin Pub Quiz Night,
\$15.00 per person gets you a platter of wings and fries and a mug of beer. Teams of 4-8; 6 is best. Winning team gets a \$10.00 gift certificate per person to return to the Brooklin Pub another time. All proceeds go to Pulmonary Hypertension of Canada. Hints: 1. Monopoly 2. Mark David Chapman. Need more info please call/text Carolyn **905-449-1162**

Mondays 6:30-7:00 pm:
French Family Storytime: Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to join Madame Sue for our weekly French Family Storytime! Enjoy a half hour of stories and songs in French, with a dash of English too!

Registration is not required. Just drop in!
LOCATION: Central Library - Children's Program Room

Tuesdays: Brooklin Toastmasters, 7:15 pm for Meet & Greet, Meeting from 7:20 to 9:14 pm at the Brooklin Community Centre & Library, 8 Vipond Road, 2nd floor Boardroom. For more information, contact John at 905-683-4439 or jajhj@sympatico.ca or Loran Weston-Smyth at loran@loranwestonsmyth.com or 416-910-4109. Brooklin Toastmasters provides a supportive and positive environment where members have the opportunity to develop their communication and leadership skills.

Basic Foot Care: Community Care Durham provides basic foot care services by registered foot care nurses

on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at St. Thomas' Anglican Church. Please call 905-668-6223 for more information.

Thursday evenings: Love to sing! The Brooklin United Church adult choir welcomes new voices to join us. Practices are Thursday evenings 7:30 - 9:00 pm. You do not need to read music to be part of the choir. Practice CD's are made available. For more information, please call the church office at 905-655-4141 or by email at office@brooklinunited.ca

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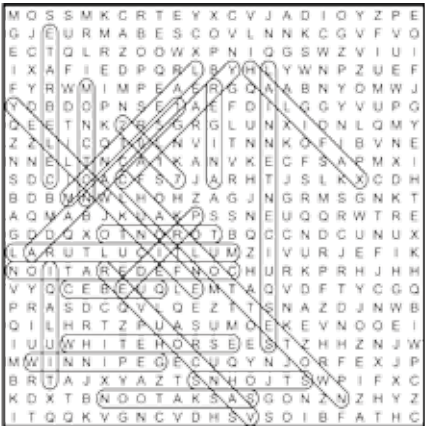
WORSHIP DIRECTORY

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905.655.8509 www.Burnschurch.org

St. Thomas' Anglican Church
101 Winchester Road East
Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:30 am
Sunday School & Nursery Program (10:30am)
Wednesday 10:00 a.m.
Communion and Healing Service
905-655-3883
www.stthomasbrooklin.ca

Brooklin United Church
19 Cassels Rd. E.
Christmas Services
December 11 • Service of Music (10:30 am)
December 18 • 4th of Advent (10:30 am)
December 24 • Christmas Eve
Family Services at 5:00 and 7:00 pm
Candlelight Communion 10:00 pm
December 25 • Christmas Day Service (10:30 am)
www.brooklinunited.ca **905-655-4141**
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Brooklin's Guide to Home Based Businesses



Photos by Dianne

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Yes Woman By Marissa Campbell

Lotus Home Interiors

Are you ready to spice things up in 2017? For those who may not know, in my spare time I write historical and contemporary romance novels. Some scenes are pretty steamy, which leads people to wonder just what it is I'm doing behind closed bedroom doors. Well, I'm opening the curtains wide, and the view may disappoint. My bedroom is boring. No *Fifty Shades of Grey*; no bearskin rugs or satin sheets. So when the opportunity came to have an in-home design consultation by Chief Designer, Zoe Lucyk, from Lotus Home Interiors, I jumped at the chance.

Lotus is a one-stop design studio. From a project's conception through to its completion, Lotus takes care of everything. Whether a client is looking for a simple update, like refreshing a drab bedroom, to complete renovations, all their services are found in-house. They employ their own full-time contractors and have several designers on staff to oversee every aspect of a project. The retail store and design centre on Baldwin St. is a testament to the gorgeous interiors they create.

Zoe's vision is incredible. She took one look at my master bedroom and immediately knew what needed to be done. I'm a hopeless romantic at heart, and my personal style reflected that. I recently purchased a new bed, but the rest of the furniture belonged to my grandparents'

on your face when you walk across that threshold.

On my shoulder blade, I have a tattoo of a dragon holding an OM, and it represents the spiritual and fiery aspects of my personality. Without knowing anything about my fasci-

scheme, the pieces she picked still resonated with romance and sensuality. This option incorporated all new furniture and was more expensive, but not outrageously so.

Both designs were stunning. Now I'm torn. Which room should I pick?

Instead of dealing with my Lotus dilemma, I'm turning to you, Brooklin Town Crier readers. Help a Yes Woman out. What do you think? Option One (keep the old with elements of the new) or Option Two (totally mix it up).

Post your answer on the Brooklin Town Crier Facebook page, or email me your pick:

info@marissacampbell.com. I'll draw one random name from all entrants for a chance to win signed paperback copies of both books in my Avelynn series!

Help me spice up my bedroom and enter for a chance to win some seriously yummy historical romance novels! Can't wait to see which design readers pick.

(Yes Woman is a paid advertisement)



Option 1



Option 2

bedroom suite. Zoe offered to give me two different design options: one would incorporate my antique dressers while the other would show me the transformative power of a few balanced and updated pieces.

Lotus's motto is "Live with what you love." How wonderful is that? A home is a personal reflection of your spirit. You need to love it to be able to really live in it. It's a designer's job to figure out what will make your home a sanctuary and put a smile

nating body art, Zoe tapped into that dichotomy when she showed me the two layouts for my room.

The first design incorporated my grandparents' furniture and struck a balance between my sense of tradition and romance, yet updated the look with wallpaper, artwork, and a gorgeous area rug.

The second design was seriously sexy with a black and white theme. While more modern in its colour



SHOWROOM Hours of Operation

Monday: Closed (by appointment only)
Tuesday: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Wednesday: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Thursday: 10:00am – 8:00pm
Friday: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday: 11:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday: Closed (by appointment only)

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For What Disease Does Pub Trivia Night Raise Funds?

By Travis Fortnum
Special to the *Brooklin Town Crier*

Did you know that the proper name for a squirrel's nest is a drey? Which of the seven dwarfs appears without a beard in the classic Disney film?

These bits of trivia and countless others have been the focus of a monthly quiz night hosted at the Brooklin Pub & Grill. It takes place on the last Sunday of the month and it's all in the name of raising awareness for the Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Canada.

While the idea of pub quiz nights isn't entirely new, it's something that wasn't brought to the area until local resident Carolyn Mathur had an epiphany of sorts while abroad in 2014.

"I was in England with (my daughter's) boyfriend's family," Mathur says. "Quiz nights are very, very popular over there; you can find one every single night. I went to one and it was great fun."

"At the end, the gentlemen who was doing the questions said they raised how ever many pounds for charity. I thought 'oh my gosh, I'm going to do this. I'm going to bring this back home!'"



Carolyn Mathur

As for finding a charitable cause, that was easy. Mathur herself was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension (PH) in April of 1997. When first diagnosed, she was given less than 24 hours to live. Twenty years later, she's considered a medical miracle as one of the longest survivors.

"They don't understand why I'm here still," she says, "There's only a handful of us in the world, that we know of, who have survived as long."

According to PHA Canada, there is more study and research into the field of PH than ever before, but Mathur believes that awareness of the rare lung disorder is lacking.

When she returned with the idea for the quiz night, the Brooklin Pub & Grill was still a new town hotspot. When she pitched her proposal, they were "100 per cent on board." And so the first of the quiz nights took place in October, 2014.

The format is simple: trivia fans and fun lovers show up with teams of 4-8, with each person chipping in \$15. For team, the table gets a mug of beer, a platter of wings and fries as well as a chance to work together to show off their knowledge. Since that first night, Mathur says

attendance has been great with many regulars turning up to test themselves on a variety of topics.

"Mostly it's just general," Mathur says, "but there is lots of film, tv and music."

Mathur's personal favourite is geography. She says she loves to look up new places. She's travelled to 55 countries and plans to add two to the list in February. She spends an estimated 10 hours researching and making up questions for each

quiz night.

Winning teams leave with a \$10 per person Brooklin Pub & Grill gift certificate.

The first quiz night of 2017 will take place on January 29. For more information and a hint at some of the topics, visit the Brooklin Quiz Night page on Facebook.

(And that beardless Seven Dwarf? It was Dopey.)

Read With Me!

Beginning Tuesday, January 10th, 11:00 -11:45 a.m. at the Whitby Central Library

by the fireplace on the main floor of the Central Library.

Read With Me is an early literacy program for infants up to 12 months and their caregivers. Read with me will run for 4 weeks beginning Tuesday, January 10th

Space is limited. Registration is required. Register online for Read With Me or by visiting any branch.

www.whitbylibrary.on.ca

Plant-Based Eating by Sheree Nicholson



Resolution: Keep it Simple this New Year

I don't make New Year's resolutions anymore simply because I've failed at every resolution I ever made, and usually in the first week.

Resolutions are hard. They're often about major change and that means reprogramming your brain's neural pathways.

If you've sworn to eat more plant-based foods, cut back on meat, or maybe even become 100% plant-based, then I'm happy for you. I made this choice about six years ago - not on New Year's Eve - and have never looked back.

One of my favourite sayings is "Keep it Simple." Make small simple changes. Avoid recipes that contain weird, unusual, or hard to find ingredients. Stay away from processed vegan foods such as tofu hot dogs and such. They carry little nutritional value and many don't taste good. Here are some simple ways to incorporate more plant based food into your life.

• Try a meatless Monday, or Tuesday, or whatever day suits your family's busy schedule.

• Cook your grains on Sunday; brown rice, quinoa, and even oatmeal, can be made ahead of time. • Breakfast is a super way to give up animal products. There are lots of great nut milks on the market now. Nut milks are super easy to make yourself, too.

• I buy pre-chopped kale and spinach. Leafy greens are the gods of food and when I buy them pre-chopped I can throw handfuls in soups, smoothies, chilis, and salads.

• Hummus is a staple in my kitchen; use it instead of mayo or butter, as a dip, or in a veggie wrap. There are many amazing flavoured hum-

muses available to buy.

• A pot of vegan chili goes a long way. Serve it with salad one night and then use it as a burrito base the second night.

• Try cooking ethnic! So many other cultures have great foods that don't use meat or dairy. Try Mexican, Thai, Chinese, and Indian, to name a few.

• Treat yourself to a great plant-based cook book. My newest one is "Oh She Glows Everyday Recipes." It contains many simple recipes for families.

Here's an easy nut milk recipe for replacing dairy on cereals and in smoothies:

1 cup raw, unsalted nuts (almonds, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts, pecans, macadamia, walnuts)
2-3 cups water for soaking the nuts
4 cups water for blending

Instructions:

Soak the nuts in 2-3 cups water overnight.

Drain and discard water.

Blend nuts with 4 cups water until almost smooth.

Strain the blended nut mixture using double folded cheesecloth or a nut milk bag. A tightly woven cloth is preferable, as twisting the top enables you to continue squeezing out more milk.

Nut milks need to be refrigerated and will keep for 3 to 4 days.

Cashews can be soaked and blended in a high-speed blender with no need for straining as they are a soft-er nut.

Sheree's Hack: Swap out butter or mayo with mashed avocado which has good heart healthy monounsaturated fatty acids

Community Garden Policy

Have your say

Public Information Centre
Wednesday, January 18
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
575 Rossland Road

Whitby is creating a new Community Garden Policy for Town owned and leased land. This will support and promote environmental, recreational and community development activities.

Join us at Council Chambers and dig into the discussion!



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Learn more at 905.430.4310
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Brooklin Bafflers: *by Liz Lowe*

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Open Data is here to stay

Durham Regional Council has approved a permanent Open Data program for The Regional Municipality of Durham. This will allow certain data to be made freely available to the public, in a machine-readable format, without any restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control.

"Through public collaboration and analysis from the Open Data pilot initiative, we were able to develop a program that serves our residents, while fostering openness and innovation within our community," said Matthew Gaskell, Commissioner of Corporate Services. "Facilitating public access to information through the Open Data program allows community groups and stakeholders to use data freely, which promotes an enhanced understanding of local government and stimulates economic growth within the region."

As part of the Open Data program, Regional Council approved an Open Data Policy to establish a consistent policy framework for the provision of data to the public and other stakeholders through Durham's Open Data portal.

The data sets currently available to the public on the Open Data portal are geographic information system (GIS) data (including child-care centres, community services, education facilities, government offices, health neighbourhood boundaries, and seniors' residences), Single Line Road Network (SLRN), Durham-wide access points, transit routes, transit stop locations, and General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS).

To learn more about the Open Data program and to access available data sets, please visit www.durham.ca/opendata.

Regional Council Approves 2017 Water and Sewer Rates

Durham Regional Council has approved the 2017 water and sanitary sewer user rates, with a combined increase of 3.6 per cent, or \$2.64 per month (\$31.72 per year) for the average Durham Region household.

"Durham's drinking water is fresh, clean and low cost, and still only pennies a glass," said Roger Anderson, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer. "However, our municipal water systems are aging, and we need to invest in our infrastructure to protect this precious resource. We want to ensure our residents continue to receive quality drinking water, straight from the tap."

Infrastructure requires large capital investments in order to meet regulatory, asset management and growth-related services. User rates are the main source of funding for capital investments for rehabilitation and replacement, often complemented by Regional development charges.

As well as the funding of capital projects, the rate increases will help to cover operating costs (expected to rise due to economic and inflationary increases in utilities, chemicals and supplies); infrastructure (large capital investments in order to meet regulatory, asset management and growth-related requirements); and debt repayment costs (specifically related to the Courtice WPCP).

While the rates are increasing, it is important to note that Durham Region still offers some of the lowest rates in the province. Of 13 larger municipalities surveyed across Ontario, the 2016 water and sewer charges are below average and are the fifth lowest in the province. These rates are set for residential, non-residential, small- to medium-sized ICI water users and large water users.

The Region's water and sanitary sewer rates are reviewed annually and recommendations are made to Regional Council in December. The approved user rates took effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

For more information on Durham Region's water and sewer user rate increases, visit www.durham.ca/watervalue. For more information about water billing, visit www.durham.ca/waterbilling.



On December 19, the Brooklin High School Prospect Park jazz band along with the Jazz Collective "rocked out" at the Brooklin Pub. Under the Direction of Mrs. Peck (front, centre), the students delighted the crowd and shared great community spirit.

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